हैं। ये स्वतन्त्र नदियां नहीं हैं बल्कि गंगा-ब्रह्मपुत्र-मेघना नदी प्रणाली का एक भाग है।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) से (ङ) बंगला देश के विचारार्थ भारत ने प्रस्ताव किया है कि शुरूआत में तौर पर जल के बंटवारे के लिए गंगा, ब्रह्मपुत्र, तीस्ता और मेघना नामक चार वृहद नदियों पर साथ-साथ विचार किया जाए ताकि एक की जल की कमी को दूसरी नदियों के अभिशेष जल से पूरा किया जा सके।

1611.[*Transferred to the 14th May*, 1992]

Water logging and salinity problem in the country

1612. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is losing annually about 17 million tonnes of grains valued at nearly Rs. 7,000 crores, due to water logging and soil salinity problems caused by faulty irrigation and drainage practices, as per the news item entitled, "Water-logging a great bane", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 10th April, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the areas affected by water logging and soil salinity; what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There has been a news item to this effect.

(b) and (c) A working group appointed by the Ministry of Water Resources has submitted a report in April, 1992. The extent of land affected by water-logging in the commands of Irrigation Projects indicated therein is 2.46 m.h.a.; and the land affected by salinity and alkalinity as 3.30 m.ha. In addition to the improved water management practices already advocated for the command areas, it has been proposed to undertake detailed survey and investigations of the chronically affected areas through the Central Water Commission's field organisation and prepare appropriate drainage projects for those areas for implementation commencing from the 8th Plan.

Implementation of cauvery water tribunal award

1613. SHRI M. VINCENT:

SHRI J. P. JAVALI:

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cauvery Water Tribunal has recently disallowed petition by Karnataka Government to review the award passed by the tribunal to release 205 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Karnataka Government have threatened to boycott the Cauvery Water Tribunal;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter for early settlement of the water dispute?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in their Order of April 3, 1992 observed that no interference is called for at this stage with their Order of 25-6-1991. They, however, clarified that in case there is any change of circumstance or undue hardship, in a particular year to any party, it will be open to such party to approach the Tribunal for appropriate orders.

(b) and (c) Central Government has not received any reference from Karnataka Government threatening to boycott the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

(d) The Prime Minister held discussions with the Chief Ministers of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry on issues relating to Cauvery waters on 17-2-1992. The States agreed to facilitate expeditious completion of all proceeding before the Tribunal.

Ground Water exploration

1614. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has drawn up any ground water exploration programmes in various States during the Eighth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof : and

(c) the details of the areas likely to be covered in such States ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under its Exploratory Drilling Programme, the Central Ground Water Board has drawn up a plan to drill 5330 boreholes in various States and Union Territories, during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) A total of 330 boreholes are likely to be drilled in bouldary rock formation areas in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. About 2000 boreholes are likely to be drilled in alluvial rock formation areas covering largely the States of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Manipur and Punjab. About 3000 boreholes are likely to be drilled in hard rock areas covering the States of Andhra Pradesh Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Atrocities of SC/ST women in Assam

1615. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of atrocities on women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were reported during the last year in Assam ; and

(b) if so, the details of such cases and the action taken against the guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government of Assam and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grievances of SC migrants

1616. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Estimates Committee made positive recommendations twice during 1978-79 and 1980-81 that the long standing grievances of the Scheduled Caste migrants should be urgently removed by enacting a separate legislation for according them the necessary recognition ;

(b) if so, the reasons for which Government are repeating the same old point of linking this matter with the question of 'comprehensive' revision of SC and ST orders when a separate legislation could be enacted earlier (1990) for recognitaion of SC converts to Buddhism as SCs ; and

(c) whether a separate legislation would be brought forward during the current session for the SC migrants also ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In accordance with Article 341(2) of the Constitution, after due consultation with the State Governments/U.T. Administrations inclusion of any community in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes can be considered. Such communities should also fulfil the criterion of extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of traditional practice of untouchability. The Scheduled Castes converts to Buddhism are deemed to be members of